



# OESNEWS

*Governor's Office of Emergency Services*

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## **Governor's Office of Emergency Services Sends Swiftwater Rescue Teams to Hurricane Katrina Disaster**

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, this morning, has mobilized eight of California's swiftwater rescue teams to the Gulf Coast for assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"We have highly-trained and well-equipped Swiftwater Rescue Teams in California that we are proud to share with our neighbors in need," said OES Director Henry Renteria.

They are being deployed at the request of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. Each 14-member team includes scuba divers, helicopter pilots, radio operators, power boat operators, paramedics, hazardous materials specialists and other specialists.

The eight swift water rescue teams being deployed are from the following agencies: Sacramento City Fire Department, Oakland Fire Department, Menlo Park Fire Department, Los Angeles City Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, the Riverside City Fire Department, and the San Diego City Fire Department.

The teams will fly on military transport out of March Air Force Base in Riverside County and Travis Air Force Base in Solano County. They arrived to the airports at approximately 7 a.m. this morning where they began loading up enough equipment and supplies to conduct their operations and sustain themselves for three days. Each team is equipped and trained by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in conjunction with the local fire agencies.

FEMA deployed other resources from California last weekend, including 11 California Urban Search & Rescue Task Force managers and three of the state's Disaster Medical Assistance Teams.

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